REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 22, 2005. Claims 1 to 7, 9, 10 and 12 to 19 remain pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 7, 9, 10, 12 and 16 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 7, 9, 10 and 12 to 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,307,640 (Motegi) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,348,972 (Taniguchi) and U.S. Patent No. 6,711,677 (Wiegley). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns performing authentication before printing print data. According to the invention, a first information processor transfers job data, which includes print data and attribute information which is used to start printing of the print data to an output device (e.g., a printer), where the information is stored. The first information processor also notifies a second information processor of the attribute information sent to the output device, together with identification information identifying the output device that the print job data was sent to. The second information processor then sends the received attribute information to the output device identified in the identification information. The output device compares the attribute information received from the second information processor to the attribute information received from the first information processor, and if they match, the stored print data is printed out. As a result, the print data is only printed out upon receipt by the printer of the proper attribute (authentication) information from the second information processor.

Referring specifically to the claims, amended independent Claim 1 is a job processing system comprising first and second information processors, and an output

device, wherein the first information processor comprises a job issuing unit adapted to transfer to the output device job data, including print data and attribute information which is used to start outputting the print data, and a notifying unit adapted to notify the second information processor of the attribute information for the job data transferred from the first information processor to the output device and identification information for identifying the output device to which the job data has been transferred, wherein the second information processor comprises a sending unit adapted to send the attribute information notified to the second information processor by the first information processor to the output device identified by the notified identification information, and the output device comprises a storage unit adapted to store received job data which includes print data and attribute information, and a control unit adapted to output print data stored in the storage means if the attribute information sent to the output device by the sending unit of the second information processor corresponds to the attribute information stored in the storage means.

Amended independent Claim 7 is a method claim, amended independent Claim 9 is a system claim, and amended independent Claim 10 is a control method for a system claim, each of which substantially correspond to Claim 1.

Amended independent Claim 12 is directed more specifically to the printer and thus is a printing apparatus connected to a network, comprising a first receiving unit adapted to receive, from a first client terminal on the network, print data and authentication information for executing printing of the print data, a storage unit adapted to store the received print data, a second receiving unit adapted to receive, from a second client terminal on the network, authentication information which the first client terminal has sent to the second client terminal together with identification information for identifying the

printing apparatus, the second client terminal sending the authentication information to the printing apparatus identified by the identifying information, and a printing unit adapted to print, when the authentication information received by the second receiving unit corresponds to the authentication information received by the first receiving unit, the print data stored in the storage unit which corresponds to the authentication information.

Amended independent Claim 16 is a control method for a printing apparatus substantially corresponding to Claim 12.

The applied art, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 1, 7, 9, 10, 12 and 16, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of an output device receiving, from a second information processor, attribute information which was sent to the second information processor by a first information processor, and if the attribute information received from the second information processor matches attribute information received by the output device from the first information processor, the output device outputting print data corresponding to the attribute information.

Motegi is merely seen to disclose that a user submits, from a user's terminal, an image file to a host computer for printing, where the image file is stored in the host computer. The host computer in turn provides a unique job number to the user's terminal, where the unique job number is displayed. The user can then go to the printer and enter the unique job number, whereby the image file is downloaded to the printer by the host computer and printed. Thus, Motegi is simply different in its operation than the present invention. Specifically, assuming arguendo that the user's terminal is a first processor as claimed in the present invention, it merely sends the print file to the host computer and does not send the print data to a printer. Moreover, the user's terminal does

not send identification information identifying the output device that the data was sent to to the host computer, at least in part because it does not send the print data to the printer, but rather, sends the print data to the host computer such that there is no need to send the claimed identification information to the host computer. Additionally, the host computer sends the unique job ID to the user's terminal (which is the first processor) and not to the printer. Thus, the printer does not receive the unique job ID from the second processor (host computer), but rather, the user has to input the unique code manually at the printer. Therefore, Motegi is clearly different in is operation from the present invention and Motegi fails to disclose or to suggest the above features of the present invention.

Taniguchi is not seen to add anything to overcome the foregoing deficiencies of Motegi. In this regard, Taniguchi is along the lines of Motegi in that a user, at a printer, selects one of a plurality of computers in which print job data is stored, where the print job data is then transmitted to the printer. However, Taniguchi is not seen to add anything that, when combined with Motegi, would have resulted in at least the feature of an output device receiving, from a second information processor, attribute information which was sent to the second information processor by a first information processor, and if the attribute information received from the second information processor matches attribute information received by the output device from the first information processor, the output device outputting print data corresponding to the attribute information.

Wiegley is also not seen to add anything that, when combined with Motegi and/or Taniguchi, would have resulted in the present invention. In this regard, Wiegley is merely seen to disclose a secure printing system in which a printer and a printer client exchange a session identifier that is used for encrypting print data. However, any permissible combination of Motegi, Taniguchi and/or Wiegley, would not have resulted in

at least the feature of an output device receiving, from a second information processor, attribute information which was sent to the second information processor by a first information processor, and if the attribute information received from the second information processor matches attribute information received by the output device from the first information processor, the output device outputting print data corresponding to the attribute information.

In view of the foregoing, independent Claims 1, 7, 9, 10, 12 and 16, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable.

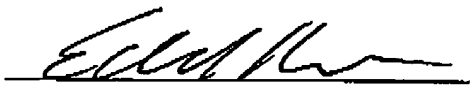
REQUEST FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF CLAIM TO PRIORITY

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner provide an indication in the next communication acknowledging Applicant's claim to priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document, which was filed on July 25, 2001.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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